

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) A method for using a multi-function key in a watch-type portable phone, the watch-type portable phone having a multi-function key with a protrusion adapted to slide in an first up/down direction ~~and~~ or a second left/right direction ~~substantially opposite to the first direction~~, and be pressed ~~in a third direction~~ substantially perpendicular to the up/down and left/right directions ~~to the first direction~~, a display for displaying at least one of digits and characters, and at least one hierarchal menu for selecting various functions, comprising the steps of:

generating at least one input signal by performing at least one of the following multi-function key manipulations:

a) pressing the protrusion of the multi-function key at least once to generate a first input signal;

b) sliding the protrusion of the multi-function key in the first up/down direction to generate a second input signal; and

c) sliding the protrusion of the multi-function key in the second left/right direction to generate a third input signal,

wherein the at least one of digits and characters are input by displaying sets of the at least one of digits and characters, sliding the protrusion in the up/down direction or the left/right direction, moving a cursor by generating at least one of the second and third input signals over at least one of a character and a digit displayed in the sets of the at least one of digits and characters, and selecting by generating the first input signal the at least one of the character and the digit below the cursor.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 40, wherein each manipulation generates one of a first sub-input signal and a second sub-input signal, said first sub-input signal is generated if the manipulation is performed for a short duration, and said second sub-input signal is generated if the manipulation is performed for a long duration.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 40, wherein the at least one input signal is further used to navigate through the at least one hierarchal menu.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 40, wherein the at least one input signal is further used to select a function.